

Message Text

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INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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S E C R E T BANGKOK 8386

EXDIS

EO 11652: XGDS

TAGS: SNAR, TH, HK, UK, XC

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS COMMISSIONER ROLPH' S SOUTHEAST ASIA VISIT

REF: LONDON 5141

1. APPRECIATE RECEIVING STUART' S OBSERVATIONS REGARDING ROLPH' S REPORT. FOLLOWING MAY BE USEFUL IN FURTHER DISCUSSIONS OF THIS MATTER.

2. CONCERNING REFTTEL PARA 5, INFORMATION DERIVED FROM RECENT TRAWLER SEIZURES IS BEING USED TO DEVELOP FURTHER STRATEGY RE TRAWLER INTERDICTION. ROLPH' S SUGGESTIONS AND STUART' S COMMENT ARE OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST. POL COUNSELOR WILL EXPLORE THIS FURTHER IN HONG KONG DURING VISIT THERE JUNE 6-8 TO PARTICIPATE IN ROLPH- INGERSOLL MEETINGS (STATE 087899).

3. CONCERNING REFTTEL PARA 6, NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING HAS BEEN ONE SOURCE OF INCOME FOR GROUPS SUCH AS FORMER KMT IN GOLDEN TRIANGLE AREA. THAIS HAVE RESETTLED SOME 5500
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OF THESE, NOW KNOWN AS CHINESE IRREGULAR FORCES (CIF), AND, IN EXCHANGE FOR ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING A SETTLED WAY OF LIFE, HAS EXTRACTED FROM THEM A PROMISE TO GET OUT OF OPIUM TRADING. THESE CIF HAS ALSO HLEPED THE THAIS AGAINST COMMUNIST INSURGENCY IN EASTERN CHIANGRAI PROVINCE, AND THIS HAS IN FACT BECOME THE CENTERPIECE OF THE PROJECT FROM THE RTG' S POINT OF VIEW. WE GAVE ASSISTANCE TO RESETTLEMENT PROJECT IN EARLY STAGES (ALTHOUGH CAREFULLY AVOIDING INVOLVEMENT IN CI ASPECTS OF CIF ROLE) AND CONTINUE TO MONITOR IT AND TO PRESS RTB TO INSIST THAT CIF SYAT OUT OF TRAFFICKING. THIS HAS PROVEN DIFFICULT LARGELY BECAUSE OF CLOSE TIES BETWEEN THESE CIF AND OTHER TRAFFICKING GROUPS (LARGELY INSURGENTS ASAINST GUB AND SOME OTHER

EX- KMT' S WHO REMAIN IN BURMA). THESE CHINESE ARE NOT RECEIVING ASSISTANCE FROM TAIPEI AND ARE NOT RESPONSIVE TO TAIPEI. FYI THERE HAVE BEEN ALLEGATIONS OF TRAFFICKING BY IBMND OFFICERS LOCATED IN GOLDEN TRIANGLE AREA. WE HAVE MADE REPRESENTATIONS BOTH TO THE GRC AND THE RTG, ON THIS. END FYI. MASTERS

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*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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